

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019445
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:WBRUBECK:TH
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
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WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
FOR ATHERTON USDEL AND AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY -USDEL NO.9

E.O. 11652: GDS

TA PGOV, XF, US

SUBJECT: PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
REF: CAIRO 2706

1. WE BELIEVE TIME HAS COME TO TRY TO GENERATE AN ATHERTON VISIT TO CAIRO. APPROACH WOULD BE LOW KEY, PROPOSING QUIET, INFORMAL, AND EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH KAMEL (IF HE IS TO BE AWAY, TALKS COULD PERHAPS BE WITH MUBARAK OR GHALI). IN LIGHT OF REFTTEL, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO AVOID OR AT LEAST DIFFERENTIATE THIS APPROACH FROM PRESENTING IT AS PROPOSAL FOR SYSTEMATIC RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN ON INDIRECT BASIS. IF NECESSARY TO AVOID RAISING PROBLEMS WITH SADAT, IT COULD BE BILLED AS ONE-TIME MEETING, WITHOUT

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PREJUDICE TO QUESTION OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. FYI: WE SEE IT, HOWEVER, AS CHANCE TO GET AT LEAST SOME MOMENTUM GOING AND ALSO TO GET A BETTER FEEL OF EGYPTIAN READINESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATING PROCESS. END FYI.

2. EGYPTIANS SHOULD BE TOLD THAT, AFTER SEVERAL INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WITH DAYAN ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,

ATHERTON THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TALK PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY WITH KAMEL. HE WOULD LIKE TO RESUME WHERE HE LEFT OFF WITH KAMEL ON DISCUSSING LANGUAGE OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND IN PARTICULAR, PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH FORMULATION OF PARA. 5-B RE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE WOULD

PARTICULARLY LIKE TO RESUME WITH KAMEL THE CONVERSATION AT BARRAGES MEETING LOOKING AHEAD ON PURELY EXPLORATORY BASIS AT HOW WE MIGHT GET INTO AGENDA ITEM B (GUIDELINES ON WEST BANK/GAZA NEGOTIATIONS) AND THEN SEE WHAT EGYPTIANS HAVE IN MIND REGARDING AGENDA ITEM C (MODEL PEACE TREATY SUBJECT MENTIONED REFTEL). FYI. IF SADAT IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DECLARATION NOW, WE DO NOT WANT TO PRESS. OUR MAIN PURPOSE AT THIS STAGE IS TO ASSURE BROADEST POSSIBLE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. END FYI.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, TALK ON DRAFT DECLARATION AT SOME POINT WILL NEED TO TURN TO EGYPTIAN IDEAS ON REFORMULATING PARA. 5-B. DISCUSSION RELATING TO AGENDA ITEM B WOULD CONTINUE EFFORT BEGUN IN ATHERTON-ABDEL MEGUID CONVERSATION IN JERUSALEM TO WORK TOWARD COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF APPROACH TO WEST BANK/GAZA PROBLEM AS REFLECTED IN OUR "GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATIONS" RELATING TO THOSE AREAS. ON AGENDA ITEM C, DISCUSSION WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A PROBE TO SEE HOW EGYPTIANS WOULD PROCEED.

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WOULD WE START WITH THE TWO TREATIES NOW ON THE TABLE AND TRY TO DEVELOP A COMMON DRAFT?

4. FOR EILTS: ;OPE YOU CAN FIND EARLY OPPORTUNITY, ESPECIALLY WITH PROSP:CT OF KAMEL'S DEPARTURE FOR BONN, TO PUT THIS PROPOSAL TO EGYPTIANS. WILL LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGMENT WHETHER TO APPROACH SADAT DIRECTLY OR THROUGH KAMEL OR MUBARAK. YOU MAY SAY THAT SECRETARY IS VERY INTERESTED IN ATHERTON'S HAVING CHANCE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE TO HEAR LATEST EGYPTIAN VIEWS. OUR ESTIMATE, FROM EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH EGYPTIANS, THAT THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO AGREE IF PURPOSE OF VISIT IS PUT IN FAIRLY GENERAL TERMS (PARAS. 1 AND 2 ABOVE). IF THEY PRESS FOR MORE SPECIFICS, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON PARA. 3 AS NECESSARY. ASSUMING A FAVORABLE RESPONSE, WE WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU AND ROY TO WORK OUT DIRECTLY THE SCHEDULE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT. IT SEEMS TO US SUCH CONVERSATION WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER WE DECIDE TO PROCEED.

5. FOR ATHERTON: WE ASSUME YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH ISRAELIS EXPLAINING PURPOSE AND VALUE OF VISIT TO CAIRO AT THIS TIME. SINCE THE TRIP WILL PROBABLY BECOME

KNOWN, WE THINK BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH PRESS IS WITH LOW
KEY BUT STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPLANATION--HAVING HAD USEFUL
CONVERSATIONS WITH DAYAN, YOU THINK IT HELPFUL AT THIS
TIME TO HAVE AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH KAMEL ABOUT
NEXT STEPS IN THE PEACE PROCESS. WE WOULD PREFER TO
AVOID IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS BEGINNING OF A NEGOTIATING
SHUTTLE; TREAT AS AN INFORMAL CONSULTATION, NOT A

PRECEDENT. WE WILL HAVE FURTHER GUIDANCE FOR YOU PRIOR

TO YOUR CAIRO MEETINGS, IF SCHEDULED. YOU WILL, OF COURSE,
NEED TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH WEIZMAN TRIP TO CAIRO WHEN
SCHEDULED.

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6. U.S. DEL NO. 11 CAME IN AFTER THIS TELEGRAM WAS
DRAFTED OUT IT SEEMS AS IF WE ARE THINKING ALONG THE
SAME LINES.

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Message Attributes

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